

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Netherlands East Indies

CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBJECT Indonesian Republic Prospects in Sumatra

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1. [redacted] who has recently observed firsthand the situation in the Netherlands East Indies, is thoroughly pessimistic about the Indonesian Republic's prospects in Java, but [redacted] optimistic about its prospects in Sumatra.
2. [redacted] Sjahrir and Hatta are convinced that the "battle for Java" is already lost. One plan now being contemplated is to permit the Dutch to take over Jogjakarta and then to stage a vengeance purge, prevailing on as many Indonesians as possible to swear to kill at least one Dutchman.
3. [redacted] Sjahrir's personal hopes lie in establishing a Republican state in Sumatra. Sjahrir believes the island is militarily impregnable and economically rich, and that the inhabitants are deeply in sympathy with his cause. In respect to the latter he feels that the accent would have to be on Islamic loyalties, probably with Arab League implications.
4. The greatest drawback at present in coordinating the area into a political entity is the lack of internal communications. It is mainly for this reason that Indonesian Republic leaders are interested in obtaining aircraft. Another critical need is for communications equipment. [redacted] there is at present only one wireless station in Sumatra, which is being operated [redacted]

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